

To : Principal
Legal
Adviser

BELSEN CASE (No.12)

Section 8(ii) of the Royal Warrant - Regulations for the trial of War Criminals (A.O.81/1945) provides:

"Where there is evidence that a war crime has been the result of concerted action upon the part of a unit or group of men, then evidence given upon any charge relating to that crime against any member of such unit or group may be received as prima facie evidence of the responsibility of each member of that unit or group for that crime."

When one considers the evidence concerning the general conditions in BELSEN and the photographs which were put in evidence, it would seem that even in the absence of further evidence as to the acts of cruelty by given individuals there is prima facie evidence of the guilt of any person who was employed in the administration of the camp.

There is, however, in each case abundant evidence of acts of cruelty, and it would seem to be quite impossible to advance any reasons for questioning the findings.

Accepting the evidence in these cases and the findings, there would appear to be no grounds upon which one could say that the sentences were excessive. I have, however, underlined in red the names of the accused who were born on or after 1919. While the youth of the accused plays an important part in considering their state of mind; and while it is quite possible that they grew up to believe that the extermination of Jews and politically unreliable people was justified, it is difficult to believe that they did not know that it was wrong to give vent to sadistic cruelty. If the Foreign Office agree that special consideration should be given to persons born in or after 1919 these cases will require very careful consideration.

It is submitted that it would be useless to forward any of these cases to the Foreign Office.

Karl SCHMIDT (no 146)

This case is referred at the same time as the BELSEN case, as SCHMIDT was employed at BELSEN but was tried separately.

In like manner it is submitted that this is not a case which could be submitted to the Foreign Office with any chance of success.

Douglas P. Passmore.

DGP/FJU
2nd August 1951

(D.G. Passmore)

*See I agree that at present
these cases cannot be recommended
to London for clemency*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

CASE NO. 12 - BELSEN TRIAL

File No.	Name		Date of Birth	Sentence	Confirmation	Final deduction	Date of release if full remiss. earned
-	Joseph	KRAMER	10.11.06	Death	Confirmed	-	-
-	Fritz	KLEIN	24.11.88	Death	Confirmed	-	-
-	Peter	WEINGARTNER	4. 6.13	Death	"	-	-
-	Georg	KRAFT	16.12.18	Death	"	-	-
-	Frank	HOESSLER	4. 2.06	Death	"	-	-
-	Juana	BORMANN	10. 9.93	Death	"	-	-
-	Elisabeth	VOLKENRATH	5. 9.19	Death	"	-	-
L 15/6/266	Herta	EHLERT ^{R.B.O.✓} _{C.O.✓}	26. 3.05	15 years	"	12 years	16.11.53
-	Irma	GRESE	7.12.23	Death	"	-	-
-	Ilsa	LOTHE	6.11.14	Not Guilty	"	-	-
-	Hilde	LOHBAUER ^{C.O.?} _{R.B.O.?}	8.11.18	10 years	"	7 years	Released 15.7.50
-	Josef	KLIPPEL	24.11.09	Not Guilty	-	-	-
-	Oscar	SCHMITZ	23. 2.16	Not Guilty	-	-	-
-	Karl	FRANCIOH	5.10.12	Death	Confirmed	-	-
-	Ladislaw	GURA	27. 6.18	Not Guilty	-	-	-
-	Fritz	MATHES	13. 6.93	Not Guilty	-	-	-
L 15/6/139	Otto	KULESSA	4. 9.92	15 years	Confirmed	None	16.11.55
-	Wadislaw	BURGRAF ^{R.B.O.?}		5 years	Confirmed	-	Released 11.8.49
-	Karl	EGERSDORF	20. 3.02	Not Guilty	Confirmed	-	-
-	Anchor	PINCHEN	22. 9.13	Death	Confirmed	-	-
-	Franz	STOFEL	5.10.15	Death	"	-	-
L 15/6/408	Heinrich	SCHREIBER ^{C.O.✓}	11. 6.23	15 years	"	Suspended on 13.9.50.	Released
-	Wilhelm	DOR	9. 2.21	Death	-	-	-
-	Erich	BARSCH		Not Guilty	-	-	-
-	Erich	ZODDEL	9. 8.13	Life	Confirmed	-	Executed on another charge
-	Ignatz	SCHLOMOVICZ	17.12.18	Not Guilty			
L 15/6/135	Vladislav	OSTROWSKI	27. 6.14	15 years	Confirmed	-	16.11.55
L 15/6/438	Antoin	AURDZIEJ ^{R.B.O.✓}	15. 9.24	10 years	"	None	16. 7.52
L 15/6/335	Ilse	FORSTER ^{C.O.✓}	2. 9.22	10 years	"	None	16. 7.52
-	Ida	FORSTER	15. 2.02	Not Guilty	-	-	-
-	Klara	OPITZ	16. 4.09	Not Guilty	-	-	-

File No.	Name	Date of Birth	Sentence	Confirmation	Final Deduction	Date of release if full remission earned
-	Charlotte KLEIN	13.12.21	Not Guilty	-	-	-
L15 /6/334	Herta BOTHE C.O.✓	3. 1.21	10 years	Confirmed	None	16.7.52
	Frieda WALTER R.B.O.?	1. 3.22	3 years	"	-	Released 16.11.48
L 15/6/336	Irene HASCHKE C.O.✓	16. 2.21	10 years	"	None	16.7.52
	Gertrud FIEST R.B.O.?	31. 5.18	5 years	"	-	Released 11.8.49.
L 15/6/288	Gertrud SAUER C.O.✓	8. 9.06	10 years	"	None	16.7.52
	Hilde LISIEWITZ R.B.O.?	31. 1.22	1 year	"		Released 16.11.46.
	Johanne ROTH C.O.? R.B.O.?	27. 1.13	10 years	3 years remitted by Wade Committee (Weil)		Released 15.7.50
L 15/6/369	Anna HEMPEL C.O.✓ R.B.O.?	22. 6.00	10 years	Confirmed	None	6. 7. 52
	Hildegard HAHMEL		Not Guilty			
L 15/6/366	Helena KOPPER C.O.✓ R.B.O.?	24. 2.10	15 years	Confirmed	10 years	16.7.52
	Anton POLANSKI	24.10.14	Not Guilty	-	-	-
	Stanislaw STAROSTKA ?	1. 5.17	10 years	suicide on 10.5.46.		

Place and Date of Trial and Charges

This trial took place in Lüneburg between 17 Sept 46 and 17 Nov 47. There were two charges :

- (1) between 1 October 1942 and 30 April 1945, when members of the staff of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp responsible for the well-being of the persons interned therein, being parties to the ill-treatment of such persons, causing the deaths of Allied Nationals, and physical suffering to Allied Nationals;
- (2) between 1 October 1942 and 30 April 1945, when members of the staff of Auschwitz Concentration Camp responsible for the well-being of the persons interned there, being parties to the ill-treatment of certain such persons, causing the death of Allied nationals and physical suffering to Allied nationals. All accused were involved in the first charge. Thirty of the 45 accused were found guilty, and eleven were sentenced to death and executed.

Facts

The evidence in this case gives details of life in Auschwitz and Belsen Concentration Camps. It tells of the ghastly torture, both mental and physical, which the inmates had to suffer, and of the utter brutality and disregard for life and limb

of the persons in authority. The accused consisted of 16 male and 16 female members of the SS, and 12 inmates who had been promoted to positions of authority.

Herta EHLERT

- (i) She was found guilty of the first charge but not of the second. She is now aged 46. She was a saleswoman, who was conscripted into the SS on 15 Nov 1939. She says she was given no option. She was sent to Ravensbrück Concentration Camp. Then in the autumn of 1943 she was sent to a Concentration Camp at Lublin. In November 1944 she went to a dependency of Auschwitz, and thence to Belsen in February 1945. She alleges that she was moved from Ravensbrück because she was too familiar and not severe enough with the prisoners.
- (ii) EHLERT admits that the conditions in BELSEN were a shame and a disgrace. In evidence she stated that the conditions were the worst she ever saw in a camp, and that they became worse as time went on. She states she went to the Kommandant several times. She speaks of several small kindnesses she did.
- (iii) In BELSEN EHLERT was in charge of the clothing store. But in March she was put in charge of the Aufseherinnen during VOLKENRATH's absence. In her sworn statement before trial she admitted striking prisoners, but only with the ^{and} hand never with a weapon.
- (iv) A Polish Jewess, Helen HAMMERMASCH, gave evidence of how VOLKENRATH, EHLERT and another, undressed and severely beat a girl. EHLERT denies she herself hit the girl but remembers the incident.
- (v) A Czech Jewess, Helene HERKOWITZ, in a deposition, tells of how EHLERT saw a ring and locket she was wearing, and took them from her. EHLERT then made her undress, and beat her about the head and back with a stick until blood came from her nose and ears. EHLERT then made her run behind the bicycle EHLERT rode to SS HQ, where she was questioned by EHLERT and two other SS women, and beaten about the shoulders with rubber truncheons. Then she (HERKOWITZ) was put in a cellar by herself and ^{only} given bread and water every three days. EHLERT in evidence remembers the case, but says HERKOWITZ used to barter jewellery in the kitchen for meat. EHLERT reported the matter and HERKOWITZ was put under arrest for a fortnight.
- (vi) Marget WEISS, Yugoslav, says that at the end of February 1945 she was present when KOPPER (the accused), who had been put into the camp as a spy, was brought in, made to undress and savagely beaten with a stick, until the whole floor was covered with blood, and KOPPER could not walk but had to be carried out. EHLERT in evidence admits she was present, but says KOPPER was struck by the prisoners she had reported, but it is obvious from her explanation that she arranged /the...

the scene and did nothing to stop it.

- (vii) A Polish Jewess, Lidia Sunschein, says EHLERT was always at the gate at BELSEN when Kommandos went to work, and that she beat the prisoners, mainly with her hands, for things like having a scarf done improperly or bootlaces wrongly made up. EHLERT beat the witness several times with her hand because SUNSCHEIN had reported too softly how many people were present at parade. Helen KLEIN, another Polish Jewess, also said in evidence, "EHLERT was the woman standing at the gate who beat the prisoners. She was one of the worst in the Camp at BELSEN and was the senior Aufseherin." EHLERT admits she used to stand at the gate and beat prisoners, giving as her reason that they put their blankets round their shoulders, which was not allowed, and they cut them and made all sorts of pieces of clothing and even shoes out of them. They also used to take parcels out.
- (viii) There are two outstanding petitions in regard to EHLERT. One dated 7 Nov 50 from her husband asks for clemency because the husband is war disabled, and completely helpless, with no relatives. The second from her lawyer, dated 28 December 1950, encloses a letter from a woman who had two daughters in Ravensbrück, where it is stated that EHLERT behaved so well that it seems impossible that she changed in BELSEN. It is submitted that no clemency is justified in this case.

Otto KULESSA.

- (i) KULESSA, now aged 58, was conscripted into the German Army on 13 May 1944, and on 15 Sep 44 transferred to MITTELBAU Concentration Camp. After staying at other Concentration Camps he arrived at BELSEN on 10 April 45, and was put in charge of a Block and about 600 prisoners. He was found guilty of the first charge.
- (ii) A Polish Jew named ZAMOSKI gave evidence that KULESSA was in charge of the transport which brought him from DORA to BELSEN. It took 7 days and ZAMOSKI says they got no food and no water. ZAMOSKI asked KULESSA for water and was told he could get some with his (KULESSA's) pistol. ZAMOSKI says more than 50 of the prisoners died, and their bodies were left abandoned in the wagon on arrival. KULESSA saw the bodies, and when ZAMOSKI spoke to him about them, he (KULESSA) said, "Yes, you want to throw away the bodies, but you are going to die very soon too, so there is no difference." On arrival at BELSEN ZAMOSKI states that KULESSA was standing with a piece of iron in his hand dealing out
/blows ...

blows. KULESSA beat ZAMOSKI so that he had to stay in bed for 3 days, and a friend of his had to go to hospital, where he died.

- iii) In a deposition a Pole named MILLER, who was also on the transport from DORA to BELSEN with, he says, about 3,000 other male prisoners, confirms that they got no food or water. He tells that on the third day when the train stopped and they got out to relax, several prisoners found some carrots lying about on the ground and started to pick them up and eat them. KULESSA then appeared and shouted, "You are not allowed to eat anything." He then pulled a pistol out and shot one prisoner, who seemed to be dead. MILLER also says that a few days before the British arrived, KULESSA ordered all Jews out to clean the road, and as they passed him he beat them over the head and body with a thick stick. One man collapsed as a result, and MILLER was told later that he had died.
- (iv) Another Pole, named RASCHNER, also speaks of the transport from DORA to BELSEN, but apparently gives the wrong date. He speaks of the carrot incident mentioned by MILLER, but gives the place as BELSEN after arrival. He confirms that KULESSA shot one man.
- (v) KULESSA denies these incidents. He admits once hitting one of the prisoners on the backside with a broom because a room was not clean for an inspection. He says few died on the transport, in fact only 42 out of 5,000 of his prisoners. He says each prisoner got 2 blankets, 1 loaf of bread and 1 kilograme of meat. He admits many people asked him for water, and he gave them hot water from the engine.
- vi) There are outstanding petitions in regard to KULESSA. One from his wife, dated 11 Oct 50, based on the distress of the family, was rejected on 5 Dec 50. He has 5 children, aged from 18 to 31. It is submitted that KULESSA was fortunate to escape the death sentence, and that no clemency is justified in his case.

VLADISLAW OSTROWSKI

- (i) OSTROWSKI, now aged 37, was in the Polish Army and fought and was wounded on the Russian front. He was detained by the Germans in April 1940. He arrived in BELSEN from DORA on 10 April 1945. He was found guilty of the first charge.
- ii) A Russian named IVANOW, in a deposition states that OSTROWSKI was a Kapo. During the journey from DORA to BELSEN, at a camp where they spent the night, OSTROWSKI, carrying a very thick wooden stick about a yard long and 3 inches thick, began to beat prisoners indiscriminately with the stick. IVANOW says OSTROWSKI beat from

15 to 20 prisoners, knocking them to the ground by blows on the head and other parts of the body. Some of the prisoners were rendered unconscious by the blows, which were completely unwarranted. At BELSEN OSTROWSKI was Kapo in charge of IVANOW's block, and it was his responsibility to distribute soup. On two occasions IVANOW saw OSTROWSKI beat many hungry prisoners with the iron handle of a broken soup ladle across the head and body, causing injuries and bleeding. Finally, IVANOW says that on 15 April 1945 when the British Troops arrived, OSTROWSKI came to the block at about 5.15 a.m., walked across the sleeping bodies of the prisoners, not caring where he trod, beat prisoners with the iron handle of the soup ladle, and shouted to them to get out on Appell. When the prisoners got up he beat them as they went out. IVANOW was told by a Russian prisoner that OSTROWSKI beat a French prisoner to death.

- (iii) Another Russian named KALENIKOW, in a deposition, speaks of OSTROWSKI's brutality at ELLRICH CAMP. At BELSEN KALENIKOW says that OSTROWSKI in the capacity of camp policeman beat with a wooden stick for no reason at all men lined up for food. KALENIKOW also mentions an occasion just before the British came when OSTROWSKI hit a sick Frenchman or Belgian on the head. This blow apparently killed the prisoner, whose body KALENIKOW ^{re}moved to a heap.
- (iv) Another Russian, named NJRASOW, in a deposition, speaks of OSTROWSKI's brutality at DORA by beating and starving the prisoners at BELSEN. When a prisoner excreted outside the block OSTROWSKI ordered all 900 prisoners in the block to sit down in a stooping position for 3 hours and beat many who moved with a wooden stick. Further, he did not give the prisoners any food that day. NJRASOW says OSTROWSKI withheld food at BELSEN and only gave it to strong and healthy prisoners.
- (v) Another Russian named SULIMA, in a deposition, confirms OSTROWSKI's brutality at DORA and ELLRICH. He also speaks of the incident when OSTROWSKI beat the sick Frenchman with a piece of iron. He states that the Frenchman did not move again and was dead. OSTROWSKI beat SULIMA on a number of occasions, and when SULIMA had typhus and asked for food, OSTROWSKI beat him across the shoulders with a stick.
- (vi) Another Russian, BROMSKY, says that at BELSEN OSTROWSKI beat prisoners who did not hurry into parades, with a wooden stick, a spade, or a truncheon.
- (vii) OSTROWSKI denies all these charges and says he was badly treated himself. He seems to have disliked Russians.
- (viii) There is a petition outstanding from OSTROWSKI, dated 24.6.51, again saying the evidence against him was false. In fact, each witness seems remarkably consistent

with the other. Two witnesses speak on his behalf, ^{one} are in a deposition.

It is submitted that there are no grounds for clemency in this case. All the evidence against him was by deposition from Russians. The Court believed it, and in the circumstances the sentence does not seem severe for such appalling brutality.

Antoin AURDZIEG

(i) AURDZIEG, now aged 26, is a Pole, who was deported to Germany on 28 Sep 41.

For not reporting for work he was sent to SACHSENHAUSEN Camp for 2 years. On 23 March 1945 he arrived at BELSEN. He says his official job was to bring the containers of food from the cookhouse. He was found guilty of the first charge.

(ii) A pole named Filo PINKUS, in a deposition (not sworn), says that AURDZIEG was overseer of Block 12, and received PINKUS and others with blows, hitting them with stools, iron bars, rubber truncheons, etc. PINKUS says that on 12.4.45, when a Pole named GRUNZWEIG felt too weak to work, AURDZIEG beat GRUNZWEIG until he collapsed and died. On 15.4.45 when a Russian unintentionally brushed against AURDZIEG, AURDZIEG hit him, and the Russian hit back, whereupon AURDZIEG called his deputy and orderlies, and they all fell upon the Russian and beat him till he lay lifeless. PINKUS witnessed these scenes. On several hundred occasions PINKUS saw AURDZIEG beat fellow-prisoners. On 10.4.45 a prisoner named LAJWAND gave AURDZIEG 5 Russian gold roubles and then asked for more soup. AURDZIEG beat LAJWAND with a stick. A Polish Jew named MARXO gave AURDZIEG a diamond for more soup, but AURDZIEG did not give the soup but beat MARXO repeatedly.

(iii) A Pole named Michel BIALKIEWICZ in a deposition says he was 10 days in Block 12 where AURDZIEG was orderly. BIALKIEWICZ states that AURDZIEG killed hundreds of people, demanded gold and valuables from all prisoners, and if he did not get them, because the prisoners had more, he beat them to death. A friend of BIALKIEWICZ named Stenick BAUER had gold teeth in his mouth. AURDZIEG threatened to kill BAUER if he did not get the teeth, and he took them. A great many of BIALKIEWICZ's comrades died after being beaten by AURDZIEG, two of them were named SARKA and MANGEL.

(iv) A man named Melamed CHAIN said AURDZIEG beat a Russian to death in five minutes on the day the British arrived.

(v) AURDZIEG denies these incidents. He said in evidence that he had not seen gold while in concentration camps. He declared PINKUS to have personal grievances against him because he refused PINKUS double rations. He spoke of himself as too young and small to kill Russians. He says he was threatened with revenge

by PINKUS on 4 July 1945 and was arrested the same day by the German Police and interrogated in German under threats and pressure, and that the statement was not true. In two statements (not sworn), he stated he had 1,200 prisoners under his orders, that he beat them, that on the morning of 12.4.45 he beat a Pole until his death ensued, that on 15.4.45 with others, he beat a Russian until he fell dead on the floor, that he assisted a Kapo in thefts of money or jewels on the promise of extra soup, and then gave nothing but blows. In cross-examination he admitted he beat people. He said that PINKUS persuaded others to give evidence against him.

- (vi) There is one outstanding petition dated 21 June 1951 submitted by a lawyer appointed to represent AURDZIEG by the Zentrale Rechtsschutzstelle. This stresses the unfortunate background of this young man, and the fact that the evidence is based on two depositions. No submission is made about his own statement. This case was reviewed on 30 June 1950, when no action was ordered. It is submitted that there should be no clemency in respect of AURDZIEG.

Ilse FÜRSTER

- (i) Ilse FÜRSTER, now aged 28, was a factory girl who joined the SS in August 1944. After six weeks training and work in a local camp she came to BELSEN with a transport on 17 or 18 February 1945. She worked first in the bath-house and then in Kitchen No.1, where there were 60 female internees cooking for the prisoners. She says she tried to get more food for the internees. She was found guilty of the first charge.
- (ii) A Pole named Regina BIALEK in a deposition states that she often saw Ilse FÜRSTER beating prisoners with a thick stick in Kitchen No.1. BIALEK says FÜRSTER struck male prisoners across the head, and women across the backside and sometimes on the head too. She beat many until they were unconscious and they were left bleeding on the floor. She used to inflict the beatings in a room in the same building as the cookhouse, and BIALEK saw them through the window. The reason for the beatings was because prisoners had asked for food or taken food from the kitchen.
- (iii) A Pole named Hila LIPPMANN, who worked as a cook in Kitchen No.1, in a deposition states that FÜRSTER was in charge and delighted in catching men and women internees attempting to steal vegetables from outside the kitchen, when she would take the culprits into a small office adjoining the kitchen and beat them with a rubber stick and kick them, often drawing blood. Once LIPPMANN saw FÜRSTER beat a sick man so badly that he had to be carried away afterwards.

/(iv)...

- (iv) EHLERT, the accused, in her statement before trial says that Ilse FÜRSTER used to beat internees to quite an unreasonable extent. But at the trial EHLERT denies this.
- (v) In her evidence Ilse FÜRSTER said there was much stealing and that EHLERT told her to take energetic steps to stop it. She denies that she beat prisoners until they were unconscious or left them lying on the floor. She says she only beat them in front of the cookhouse and that everybody saw it, never in the office, nor had she a rubber truncheon.
- (vi) A Pole named Sophia LITWINSKA gave evidence at the trial that Ilse FÜRSTER who was in charge of Kitchen No.1, beat a girl who took a potato so severely that the girl defaecated. Then FÜRSTER dragged her out of the kitchen and continued to beat her until her death. FÜRSTER denies that the girl died and says she came next morning and worked in the cookhouse, but she admits beating her.
- (vii) A petition dated 24 May 51 from a lawyer appointed by the Zentrale Rechtsschutzstelle to represent FÜRSTER suggests the evidence is lacking in precision. It would surely be extraordinary and suspicious if it were exact. The petition stresses FÜRSTER's youth and inexperience. It asks for her period of remand from 17 April/1945 to be taken into account.
- (viii) There is no doubt at all of Ilse FÜRSTER's guilt in regard to ill-treatment on her own evidence. It is submitted that clemency would not be justified in her case.

Herta BOTHE

- (i) Herta BOTHE, now aged 30, was a nurse who was in Sep 42 directed to RAVENSBRÜCK as an Aufseherin. She came to BELSEN on 26 Feb 1945. She was put in charge of the wood Kommando consisting of 60 internees, who fetched wood into the camp. She was found guilty of the first charge.
- (ii) A Czech named Wilhelm GRUNWALD in a deposition states that between 1 and 15 April 1945 he saw several very weak female prisoners carrying a food container from the kitchen to the block. As it was heavy they put it down to rest, and BOTHE shot at them with a pistol, and hit them. They fell down, but GRUNWALD cannot say whether they died or were merely wounded.
- (iii) A Pole named Lola SCHIFFERMAN states in a deposition that on a day in January or February 1945 a Hungarian friend of hers, Eva, went to the kitchen to eat

/some

some turnip peeling which were in a heap outside the kitchen. As she was taking them BOTHE came up and ordered a girl to bring a big piece of wood with which she beat Eva. Eva fell and SCHIFFERMAN and others shouted to BOTHE that Eva was too weak to stand. BOTHE replied, "I will beat her to death," and then beat her on the head and all over the body for about 10 minutes. BOTHE then ordered SCHIFFERMAN and other girls to take the body to a room where corpses were put. SCHIFFERMAN says EVA was killed by the beating.

- (iv) A Russian named Lola TRISZINSKA in a deposition names BOTHE as a person whom she has seen severely beating internees and thereby causing their ultimate deaths.
- (v) BOTHE in her evidence said she never had a pistol. She denies killing EVA or beating anyone with a stick, a piece of wood, or a rubber truncheon. She admits she beat them with her hands. She says she slapped the faces of prisoners caught stealing, though she should have reported it to the Camp Commandant when they would have been severely punished.
- (vi) There are no outstanding petitions in regard to BOTHE. It is submitted that no clemency is justified in her case.

Irene HASCHKE

- (i) HASCHKE, now aged 30, was a factory worker who was conscripted into the SS on 16 August 44. She came to BELSEN on 28 February 45. After being put on various jobs for a few days, she went to work in Kitchen No.3. She was found guilty of the first charge.
- (ii) ^{il-}Hona STEIN, a Hungarian Jewess, stated in evidence that HASCHKE took part in beatings, and "whenever a prisoner got a few drops of soup she knocked it over, poured it out, and hit that prisoner until he could hardly get up." STEIN says that several times HASCHKE beat her, but sometimes she was quick enough to run away. The reason for the beating was because she tried to get a few potato peelings or save remnants of a turnip, or because she was standing in the vicinity.
- (iii) Hanka ROSENWAYG, a Polish Jewess, stated in evidence that when a woman went to fetch some water from the kitchen HASCHKE noticed her and threw her into the concrete pond. ROSENWAYG was told later that the woman was taken away dead from the pond.
- (iv) A Russian named Luba TRISZINSKA states in a deposition that she saw HASCHKE beat internees severely with a heavy stick, thereby causing their ultimate deaths.

- (v) HASCHKE denied all these allegations, but she admitted she beat people quite openly in front of the door.
- (vi) There are no outstanding petitions in regard to HASCHKE. It is submitted that no clemency is justified in her case.

Gertud SAUER

- (i) SAUER, now aged 46, was conscripted into the SS on 22 September 44, and came to BELSEN on 28 February 45. She did various jobs. She was found guilty of the first charge.
- (ii) Anita LASKER, a German internee, stated in evidence that she had seen SAUER very often beating people with a whip, when she caught them stealing turnips.
- (iii) Maria NEUMANN, a Pole, states in a deposition that she saw SAUER beat a man about the head and body with a stick, because he had taken a meatless bone from the swill-tub outside the kitchen. The man received very severe injuries to the head and was afterwards picked up by SAUER and thrown into a ditch. SAUER also beat NEUMANN for watching this incident.
- (iv) SAUER denies she even saw a whip in the S.S. She admits hitting prisoners with her hand when she caught them stealing vegetables.
- (v) Helen KLEIN, a Polish Jewess, in evidence stated that SAUER beat people when they approached her in order to get a piece of rotten turnip. She used a riding-whip. When put to SAUER in cross-examination SAUER said, "I believe that the prisoners told the truth when they said I beat them by slapping their faces, but that was not brutal enough for the British officers, and therefore they invented a riding-whip."
- (vi) Lidia SUNSCHEIN, a Polish Jewess, said in evidence that SAUER was terrible, she used to beat the girls in the cookhouse very frequently and pull their hair, and one or two days before the arrival of the British Troops one of the girls was caught with a piece of mangel in her hand and she got a terrible beating. In cross-examination SUNSCHEIN admits the beating was with the hand. SAUER denies pulling anybody's hair.
- (vii) SAUER admits in cross-examination that beating was part of her duty but directly against the regulations.
- (viii) There is a petition for clemency in regard to SAUER, dated 26 Nov 50, from a friend whose work she did when he was called up, and who wants to employ her in his firm. The petitioner considers her generous and sincere. It is submitted that no clemency is justified in SAUER's case.

Anna HEMPEL

- (i) HEMPEL, now aged 51, was a factory worker who was conscripted into the SS on 8 May 1944. She spent three weeks in RAVENSBRÜCK, was sent to other camps, and finally reached BELSEN on 17 February 1945. She worked in Kitchen No. 2. She stated in evidence that she reported that the rations were insufficient. She says she was taken ill with typhus on 8 April 1945 and went to hospital, where she was arrested. She was found guilty of the first charge.
- (ii) Lydia SUNSCHEIN, a Polish Jewess, said in evidence that HEMPEL was even worse than SAUER and used to beat people with a rubber truncheon. On one occasion when some girls were caught in front of the cookhouse with remnants of turnips in their hands, HEMPEL took them into her room and beat them till blood was visible. Then HEMPEL wanted to flirt with a Frenchman named Jean, but when he was reluctant she beat him on various occasions and smacked him on the face. SUNSCHEIN used to hear girls yelling terribly in HEMPEL's room as they were beaten. HEMPEL denies having a private room or using a rubber truncheon.
- (iii) Helen KLEIN, a Polish Jewess, stated in evidence that HEMPEL was the worst Aufseherin in BELSEN, that she was in Cookhouse No.2, and ill-treated the personnel in the cookhouse in a terrible way, and kept in her office a special riding-whip which she used for the purpose of beating the prisoners. If HEMPEL noticed anyone slacking in her work for a minute, or looking somewhere or having some food in her mouth ^{she} ~~the~~ seized the food out of her mouth ^{then} and started beating the victim. HEMPEL denies all this.
- (iv) A Czech named Gertrud DIAMENT, in a deposition said that she saw HEMPEL beating prisoners with a rubber stick for stealing or attempting to steal from the kitchen. On one occasion DIAMENT saw HEMPEL beat a very sick man until he collapsed in a heap on the ground. HEMPEL denies this.
- (v) A Russian named Luba TRISZINSKA, in a deposition states that when at the beginning of March 1945 she was acting as nurse to Dutch children she was present when HEMPEL caught a male internee stealing turnips, and first she (HEMPEL) beat him with a rubber truncheon, using all her strength, and when tired she called a Rottenführer to help her. The prisoner became unconscious and had to be carried away. HEMPEL remembers the incident and admits she hit him with a stick over the back, but denies seeking the assistance of a Rottenführer or that the man collapsed.
- (vi) HEMPEL said in evidence she beat prisoners with her hands when she caught them stealing and it was necessary. She professes not to have joined the SS

willingly.

- (vii) A petition on HEMPEL's behalf, dated 23 May 1951, has been submitted by a lawyer appointed to represent her by the Zentrale Rechtsschutzstelle. She has a son now aged 22, whom she misses. It is submitted that no clemency is justified in HEMPEL's case.

Helena KOPPER

- (i) KOPPER, now aged 41, is a Pole. She was arrested by the Gestapo for possessing anti-German leaflets on 24 June 1940. She was in RAVENSBRÜCK, AUSCHWITZ from 21 October 42 to 20 December 44, and in BELSEN from 27 Dec 44. She was in BELSEN appointed a Blockälteste. From 15 February 45 to 1 March 45 she acted as a Camp policewoman. She was found guilty of the first charge.
- (ii) Hanka ROZENWAYG, a Polish Jewess, stated in evidence that she was told that when a girl received a food parcel, KOPPER reported it to the leader and the girl was sent to a punishment Kommando.
- (iii) Regina BIALEK, a Pole, says in a deposition that KOPPER was well favoured by the SS, and that she (KOPPER) reported to the SS the names of women who were in possession of valuables. KOPPER deprived women of their proper share of what food there was. She frequently beat prisoners across the head and all parts of the body with a wooden stick. BIALEK states that as far as she knows KOPPER did not inflict any serious injuries on those she beat, but there was no necessity for the beatings. When a camp policewoman she beat prisoners with a wooden stick for trifling offences. In March 1945 she became pregnant, it was thought by an SS man. She was said to have had a miscarriage owing to ill-treatment by EHLERT, who told the other prisoners to beat her also, which they did readily owing to their hatred of her.
- (iv) Halma FÜRSTENBERG, a Pole, says in a deposition that she frequently saw KOPPER beating other women prisoners. These beatings usually took place in the block round about the time that Appell were being held. KOPPER beat prisoners because they hurried away to their block after Appell. She usually beat with a stick, or a leather strap or anything she picked up on the head and all parts of the body. On Appell she made old women kneel on the ground. She beat several women who subsequently died. On an occasion in January 1945 during very cold weather, she made a Polish Jewess of 45 kneel for half-an-hour for talking on parade, and when two SS women said it was enough KOPPER said, "She must learn to stand at Appell," and made the woman continue to kneel. When in a bad mood she beat women for no

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reason at all. FÜRSTENBERG saw KOPPER in bed with an SS man named SVISTAL.

A Polish Jewess missed her food one day, and when she asked KOPPER for it KOPPER beat her over the head with a leather strap until she fell unconscious to the ground, when KOPPER continued to beat her. The woman got concussion and died three or four days later. KOPPER in evidence admits she beat some prisoners during parades, although very seldom, and says she shouted more than she beat. KOPPER said the woman alleged to have been killed was KOPPEL who had given evidence at the trial.

- (v) Ruchla KOPPEL, a Polish Jewess, said in evidence that one day when she had had her arm dressed in hospital, she missed her supper and asked the Blockälteste, KOPPER, for it. KOPPER then started beating KOPPEL on the head and heart until she fainted. KOPPEL was still on 29 September 45 suffering from the effect to her heart of this beating. KOPPEL also said KOPPER's behaviour to the other prisoners was very bad, and she remembered an occasion when a woman asked to be excused from the parade for a minute and KOPPER started beating her with a stick and the woman died.
- (vi) Paula SYNGER, a Polish Jewess, said in evidence that KOPPER behaved very badly and beat prisoners very much. SYNGER said KOPPER beat people before morning roll call with a leather strap she had on her, or whatever ~~was~~ else was available. She compelled sick people to attend the parades, though they were allowed not to attend, and she left in the block those she wanted to favour. SYNGER remembered an old woman suffering from a heart disease whom SYNGER tried to get KOPPER to excuse from parade, but instead KOPPER beat her and made her attend. On the parade the old woman fainted, and KOPPER refused to allow her to be taken into the block. After the parade the old woman was taken to hospital and died 3 days later. SYNGER remembered the time when the weather was bad and an old woman unable to stand at attention moved, and KOPPER ordered her to kneel. She confirms that when the Aufseherin said it was enough KOPPER insisted that she went on kneeling till the end of the parade.
- (vii) Estera GUTERMAN, a Polish Jewess, gave evidence that KOPPER treated the internees very badly by beating them and making them go on parade when ill. GUTERMAN told of an occasion when she moved on parade and KOPPER beat her on the head with a belt and then made her kneel for the whole of the parade, that was for about an hour, even after the Aufseherin had said it was enough. GUTERMAN also told of a Polish woman called FISCH who was standing without boots or shoes, whom KOPPER ordered to kneel in the wet throughout the whole parade, so that she got
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a fever and died after three weeks. Then GUTERMAN remembered the sick Polish woman whom KOPPER made parade though she was ill, and beat, so that she had to be taken to hospital and died three days later. KOPPER even beat people who came to visit from the other blocks.

- (iii) KOPPER mostly denied these incidents as to extent and details. She said during her cross-examination, "It was my painful duty to beat them from time to time in order to prevent them doing the things which would bring harm to the block." She denies she made anyone kneel because she herself had to do so many times. She regarded herself as "too human." Her chief mode of defence was attack on other persons. After reading her evidence and that against her, it is impossible not to regard her as one of the nastiest of the many horrible accused in this trial. One is unable to regard her as a credible witness.
- (ix) The Director of the Prison in his latest report comments, "Mendacious, cunning character. Obeys reluctantly to prison regulations." She has submitted a petition dated 8.11.50. It is submitted that no clemency is justified in her case, and that she is always likely to be a menace to society.